

**TRANSITION TO ADULT LIVING
IMPLEMENTATION TEAM MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2004
MINUTES**

Welcome/Announcements:

Mike Richardson called the meeting to order and made the announcement that Jim Anderson has retired from the Christmas Box House and will no longer be attending Transition to Adult Living (TAL) Implementation Team meetings. Jim was thanked for his dedicated service to youth and his work on this initiative.

Mike also announced that we had received word that Lisa McDonald, Eric Jenkins, LeRoy Franke and Stacy Brubaker presented workshops at an Independent Living Conference in San Antonio last week and did an excellent job. They were thanked for promoting services for youth and their contributions on Utah's TAL Initiative.

Melissa Larsen announced that CWLA (Child Welfare League of America) will conduct a Listening Forum for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning Youth in the Child Welfare System in Salt Lake City on October 22, 2004, 3-6pm at DHS, Room 304. For further information, call Melissa at 801-706-9168.

Reports from Task Groups:

Marie Christman reported that the Employment/Training/Education Task Group had a group of youth here today to critique at the new "Just for Youth" Website. The youth gave valuable information and great suggestions for enhancing the website. Kelly Colopy and Rich Rayl have done an excellent job on the website.

Marie also mentioned that DWS was able to get the UWorks System functioning and ready to fund youth who are going to college or other post-secondary education. DWS made many quick changes on a complicated system to accommodate the ETV (Educational-Training-Voucher) funds. Marie mentioned that the work of the E/T/E group is nearing completion of the major tasks.

Amanda Singer reported that the website "Just for Youth" is now on-line and running. She suggested that everyone visit the site and make any suggestions or feedback to Kelly Colopy. The website address is: www.justforyouth.utah.gov

George Delavan reported that the Health & Mental Health Task Group is nearing the end of the tasks they were assigned. DCFS and BES (Bureau of Eligibility

Services) have worked out a pathway to assure that all eligible youth leaving custody at age 18 are signed up for Medicaid Newborn Plus, which will cover medical expenses until age 19. Also, the Building Block has been submitted to the Governor's Office requesting match money to fund Medicaid benefits for youth to age 21. Task Group members are also checking the website for accuracy of health and mental health information submitted to Kelly.

Richard Walker reported that the Housing Task Group has been able to secure over 90 units in Ogden to assist youth exiting care and needing housing. These units are newly remodeled, safe, and affordable. This will greatly enhance the success of the Northern Region Pilot Project. Richard has been working with Tim Holm and other partners in Ogden to get youth in these units.

Richard will be meeting in the near future with IL Coordinators to locate resources in each area of the state. He needs information about where the youth want to live then make the connections with landowners. So far, most landowners have been very positive and willing to work on assisting the youth.

The Housing Task Group has three additional assignments they began working on today in order to enhance previous efforts. They will continue meeting for now.

Lisa McDonald reported for the Mentoring Task Group. She said the mentoring RFP's (Request for Proposal) went out the end of September and the proposals are due back on October 26th. TAL members should encourage organizations to submit a proposal so there will be a good group of potential programs to choose from. Lisa also mentioned that they will be working with the Utah State Hospital regarding their discharge/transition-planning model.

Mike Richardson announced that there will be an "Ending Homelessness" Summit on October 18 and 19. One sub-committee of the State Homeless Coordinating Council will focus on discharge planning for foster and juvenile justice youth exiting the system.

Marketing/Training/Sustainability:

Copies of the updated Marketing/Training/Sustainability plan were passed out. Mike Richardson and Marie Christman reported that Darin Brush from DWS has agreed to chair a sub-group with Public Information Officers from USOE, DWS, DOH, and DHS in order to finalize a marketing plan.

Mike announced that Utah will likely be used as a national model by the NGA (National Governors Association) to assist other states in developing their transition to adult living programs. It will put Utah in a unique position to share

and receive helpful information from other states regarding the improvement of services to youth transitioning out of state custody.

The federal Department of Labor representatives are currently looking at how they may assist Utah with WIA-Youth goals in order to specifically include foster youth.

The “training” part of the Implementation Plan needs to be closely coordinating with the marketing piece in order to be successful. Training is moving at different speed in various parts of the state. Due to the size of the initiative and the many groups that will need some type of training, we cannot assume that it can all be done at the same time. Richard Anderson and Mike Richardson will ask their training coordinators to be involved with the marketing sub-group in order to facilitate a smooth training plan.

In regards to the marketing plan, a suggestion was made to involve the Office of Hispanic Affairs to the list of those to receive information about TAL.

Also, in regards to marketing and sustainability of TAL—each of the executive directors involved will mention the TAL initiative in their legislative committees and cover it in transition documents as the new Governor takes office in January.

Other Items:

Kathy Dimick asked if there would be any follow-up to a previous suggestion that state employees be given one hour of paid leave per week in order to be volunteer mentors. She said it is challenging to get enough good mentors for older youth.

Since this may require a whole new change in state personnel rules—Richard Anderson suggested that there may be a way to tie some mentoring to some jobs that employees are already doing that are closely related.

Lisa McDonald made an announcement about the Independent Living Summit on November 5th and 6th. She passed around fliers giving more information. The location may change but confirmation will be coming out soon.

Next Meeting:

There will be no TAL Implementation Team meeting on November 3, 2004 due to the IL Summit on November 5th and 6th. All TAL Implementation Team and Task Group members are invited and encouraged to attend the Summit. The next Implementation Team meeting will be on Wednesday, December 1, 2004.

Questions were raised regarding where the TAL initiative will go from here. Some suggestions for sustainability were to encourage the new Governor to make this a major initiative and continue a task force, ask Governor Walker to chair the effort when she leaves office, solidify plans and goals for next year at the IL Summit, get local groups of partners together to determine how to continue TAL in local communities, use the CCS-MOU (Coordinated/Collaborative Services-Memorandum of Understanding) to assure this initiative becomes a regular, on-going program, and continue to implement the activities and guidelines that have been initiated to this point.

Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

1. Have Task Group chairs report on completed charter assignments
2. Draft an implementation plan for Year Two
3. Have a report from the Marketing Sub-Group

Implementation Team Member and Support Staff Attending:

Richard Anderson
Mike Richardson
Marie Christman
George Delavan
Barbara Feaster
Ron Harrell
Stephen Jardine

Michelle Barnett
Lisa McDonald
Richard Walker
Suzette Hudson
Amanda Singer
Barbara Thompson
Pam Russell

Excused: Jim Anderson, Vicki Cottrell, Mary Shumway, Karl Wilson, Jane Broadhead, Herman Hooten, Kelly Colopy

Task Group Members and Other Guests Attending:

Melissa Larsen
Jane Lewis
Rebecca Banner
Kathy Dimick
Patti VanWagoner
Steven Titensor
Michelle Murray
Sarah Pomeroy
Mary Jane McGuire

Angie Barley
Mike Beacco
Joe Ann Bartlett
Stacy Brubaker
Jenn Ward
Becky Tierney
Ken Hull
Tim Holm